

STROUD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1947, which, in accordance with instructions, is an abbreviated one.

Generally speaking the year has been free from any serious epidemics, although in common with the rest of the Country, cases of infantile paralysis were brought to my notice. Six suspected cases were reported of which five were confirmed later. There was one death.

SCARLET FEVER.

14 cases were notified as compared with 11 in 1946. One case was not confirmed after admission to hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case, aged 15 years, was notified, but was not confirmed as a true case. This compared with 5 confirmed cases in 1946. It would appear that the Immunisation Scheme is having a marked effect on the incidence of this disease. The acceptance rate for the treatment is satisfactory, although some parents still delay immunisation until their children begin School. This is a foolish policy, as the mortality from the disease is much greater in those under School age. A monthly Clinic is held in Stroud in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre. It is free to all those up to 15 years of age.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

One case in an adult was notified and made a good recovery.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING-COUGH.

Measles was epidemic and widespread, but no deaths from this disease, or from whooping-cough were reported.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notifications received last year was 27 as compared with 26 in 1946. Of those notified one was a Service case, and two were transferred from other areas.

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate (All Forms) was 571 per million as compared with 642 per million in 1946.

HOUSING.

A considerable portion of the time of the Council has been devoted to schemes for the provision of houses for the working classes and some progress can be recorded. The following figures indicate the number of houses completed and occupied during 1947 and those under construction at the end of the year.

Number of houses of traditional design completed and occupied	23
Number of prefabricated houses completed and occupied	40
Total number completed and occupied	63
Number of above constructed by private enterprise	NIL
Number of houses of traditional design under construction at 31st December 1947	49
Number of prefabricated houses under construction at 31st December 1947	NIL

Unfortunately it has not been practicable to deal extensively with the unfit houses in the area which should be demolished, but in a few cases unfit houses have been closed when the occupants have obtained other accommodation.

SEWERAGE.

No start has yet been made with the Scheme for new and enlarged trunk Sewers and internal Sewers, but it is expected that by next year the new Sewage Disposal Works will be commenced.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water for the area is supplied by the Stroud District Water Board and approximately 95% of the population benefit from a main supply. The water has been found satisfactory, both in quality and quantity, and although hard, is clear and palatable. Regular monthly samples are taken and B. Coli is found to be absent in over 95% of samples. During last year 9 houses were connected to the main supply.

STATISTICS.

<u>Birth Rate</u>	18.0 per 1,000 as compared with 18.1 per 1,000 last year (20.5 per 1,000 in England & Wales).
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<u>Death Rate</u>	13.2 per 1,000 as compared with 14.1 per 1,000 last year (12.0 per 1,000 in England & Wales).
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<u>Infantile Mortality.</u>	24.6 per 1,000 as compared with 35.4 per 1,000 last year. (41 per 1,000 in England & Wales).
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Estimated Population: 15,750.

The statistics may be considered satisfactory, the Death Rate and Infantile Mortality Rate both declining.

The principle causes of death were as follows:-

(a)	Heart Disease	79
(b)	Cancer	29
(c)	Intra-Cranial vascular lesions ...	24
(d)	Respiratory diseases	24
(e)	Tuberculosis	9

It is satisfactory to be able to record that deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years were Nil compared with a rate of 5.8 per 1,000 live births (England & Wales).

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are in the district 25 Factories in which Sections 1-7 are enforced by the Sanitary Authority and 98 in which Section 7 only is enforced by the Sanitary Authority. The number of inspections made last year was 110 and in 10 instances it was found that Sanitary conveniences were either insufficient or defective. In all cases the defects were remedied. It was not found necessary last year to initiate any prosecutions.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I think we may fairly say that the health of the District is satisfactory judged by the Statistics, and it is hoped that when the National Assistance Act and the National Health Service Act come into full operation, the population will continue to improve in health and mind. The problem of the future will be the care of the old people in their declining years.

Finally I would like to thank the Council and the Public Health Committee for their continued co-operation and support throughout the year, and the Sanitary Inspectors for their assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

NICHOLAS D. DUNSCOMBE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1948.

